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speaker. But the committee system as a whole is inadequately presented. There is no discussion of the functions of committees, nor of their methods of procedure, nor of the system of subcommittees.

A chapter on the president and the house notes the increasing influence of the chief executive with some indications of distrust. The author evidently does not see in this another phase of the same tendency towards concentrating responsibility which he approves in the case of the speaker.

Nothing is said of the relations between the house and the senate, except in connection with impeachment proceedings. An interesting study might be made of the comparative influence of the two branches of congress, and the connection between effective leadership and the hegemony of one or the other house.

An appendix presents in tabular form the data as to apportionment, political divisions, presidents, speakers, clerks, and other officers, and the chairman of important standing committees.

JOHN A. FAIRLIE

Principles of American state administration. By John Mabry Mathews, Ph.D., assistant professor of political science, university of Illinois. (New York and London: D. Appleton and company, 1917. 534 p. \$2.50 net)

Until very recently the framework and functions of state government in this country have had surprisingly little attention at the hands of text writers. Books relating to the government of the nation we have had by the score, and during the last decade there has been no dearth of volumes relating to the various aspects of municipal administration; but the machinery, methods, and problems of state government have been almost wholly neglected. During the last twelvemonth, however, two noteworthy volumes have appeared in this field, both of them excellent in quality and both entitled to a genuine welcome from students of public affairs. One is Mr. Holcombe's *State government in the United States*; the other is Mr. Mathews' volume. These books are akin in that both deal with the same general subject and both are a credit to their respective authors. But there the parallel ends. If the two writers had prearranged to divide the field of statecraft between them they could hardly have better managed to keep from treading upon each other's ground. Mr. Holcombe has concerned himself with the foundations of state government, with the major organs of executive and legislative power, likewise with problems of governmental reorganization. Mr. Mathews, on the other hand, has given his special attention to the equally important task of showing what the various state departments have to do and what methods they pursue in doing it.

The administrative work of the American commonwealth has enormously increased in our day and with this increase in functions has come an appreciation of the need for greater efficiency. The time has gone by when the methods by which a department conducts its work, whether in nation, state, or city, can be regarded as matters of minor consequence to be left to the discretion of whomsoever happens to be for the moment at the head of a department. Today the method is as important as the man; the system under which the public business is carried on ranks in importance with the personnel of government. That is why a careful study of principles and methods, such as this book contains, must necessarily be of service not only to students of administration but to the men who are actually engaged in administrative work and who wish to be guided by the best practice in carrying out their complicated tasks.

The writer of a book on the subject of state administration runs the risk, however, of dropping into either of two pitfalls. He may err in giving us too little or in giving us too much. He may touch only the high points, thus impairing the value of his book to those who want to get a real grasp of the subject, or he may clutter his pages with so many details relating to the multifarious activities of the various state departments that the average reader will get lost in the underbrush. Mr. Mathews has happily managed to steer a middle and proper course. His aim has been to select for description those functions of state administration which, either because of their outstanding importance or because of their suitability as types will broadly suffice to show the man of average intelligence how the entire business of the state is carried on. The book is, accordingly, divided into two parts, one dealing with the way in which state administration is organized, the other with the methods by which the administrative organizations perform the functions allotted to them. In this latter section of the book the author's main attention is devoted to six far-reaching state services, namely, taxation and finance, education, charities and corrections, public health, the enforcement of law, and the administration of justice. An admirable chapter, well-balanced and unbiased, on the reorganization of state administration completes the volume.

From the friends of better state government in this country Mr. Mathews is entitled to both gratitude and congratulations, the one because he has done a work which was so well worth doing and the other because he has done it so well. He has paid scrupulous heed to the canons of sound writing, avoiding rash generalizations and sticking closely to the main trails of discussion. He has not disdained to be accurate in details, a trait that is none the less benign because it passes among the unwashed as mere pedantry. At the end of each chapter there are

some references for further study and the mechanism of the book, the presswork particularly, is unusually good.

WILLIAM BENNETT MUNRO

State socialism after the war. An exposition of complete state socialism, what it is, how it would work. By Thomas J. Hughes. (Philadelphia: George W. Jacobs and company, 1916. 351 p. \$1.50 net)

This is not a historical work. The early chapters do recount developments in England in the early years of the war which led to the introduction of various features of state socialism, but the author, in attempting to make use of the journalistic device of writing of coming events as if they had actually happened, falls into the error of assuming a cessation of hostilities in the great war at the intervention of the neutral powers under the leadership of the president of the United States. This forecast is carried on to cover the development of British East Africa under a complete system of state socialism, which is represented as becoming infectious and resulting in a gradual world-wide adoption of the same system. The author uses this device to lead up to a detailed analysis of what a system of state socialism involves. This state socialism is considered by the author to be merely the practical application of the social gospel of Jesus. He closes with two chapters which explain its scriptural foundation and a concluding chapter showing the growth, expansion, and adaptability of modern business methods to the new social order. It should be noted that his scheme of state socialism involves government ownership, but not government conduct or control of industry.

A. C. C.

Republican principles and policies. A brief history of the republican national party. By Newton Wyeth. (Chicago: Republic press, 1916. 256 p.)

This is a book of small importance to the historian, written by a conservative republican as a campaign document for 1916. While intended for campaign purposes, it reviews the history of parties from the establishment of the constitution without undue stress of the later period, but the reconstruction period is slighted. The tariff is the main theme, and it will surprise many to learn that the democratic party has been consistent on that issue, or as much so as its imperfect nature permits. There are many such gems of political wisdom as the following: "But as long as an old party is reasonably successful in administration, conserves the public interests according to its course, and does not attempt the solution of new problems ahead of public interest, or if it makes the